

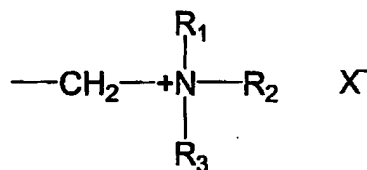
21. (New)The method according to claim 20, wherein said water-soluble soybean polysaccharide is a water-soluble polysaccharide extracted from soybean or soybean extraction residue at pH of 4 or less and subjected to desalinating purification.

22. (New)The method according to claim 20, wherein said cationic polymer is fixed to said water-soluble soybean polysaccharide.

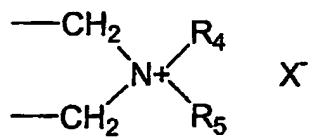
23. (New)The method according to claim 20, wherein said cationic polymer is graft-polymerized to said water-soluble soybean polysaccharide.

C1 24. (New) The method according to claim 20, wherein said cationic polymer is an acrylic polymer, a vinyl polymer or an acrylic polymer, each having a quaternary amino group.

25. (New)The method according to claim 24, wherein said cationic polymer is a hydrophilic, synthetic resin comprising a structure unit having a quaternary amino group represented by the following general formula:



or



wherein R₁-R₅ are groups selected from the group consisting of alkyl groups having 1-7 carbon atoms, aryl groups, benzyl groups and combinations thereof, which may be the same or different,

and X⁻ is a counter ion.

26. (New)The method according to claim 25, wherein said cationic polymer further comprises a structure unit derived from a hydrophilic acrylic, vinyl or allyl monomer, and/or a structure unit derived from a hydrophobic monomer.

27. (New)The method according to claim 20, wherein said sizing agent further contains a surfactant.

28. (New)The method according to claim 21, wherein said sizing agent further contains a surfactant.

CI 29. (New)The method according to claim 27, wherein said surfactant is a nonionic surfactant having a hydrophilic-lipophilic balance (HLB) of from 5-15.

30. (New)The method according to claim 28, wherein said surfactant is a nonionic surfactant having a hydrophilic-lipophilic balance (HLB) of from 5-15.

31. (New)The method according to claim 22, wherein a weight ratio of said cationic polymer to said water-soluble soybean polysaccharide is from 0-50.

32. (New)The method according to claim 31, wherein the weight ratio of said cationic polymer to said water-soluble soybean polysaccharide is from 0.5-20.

33. (New)The method according to claim 27, wherein a weight ratio of said surfactant to said water-soluble soybean polysaccharide is from 0.05-200.

34. (New)The method according to claim 33, wherein the weight ratio of said surfactant to said water-soluble soybean polysaccharide is from 0.1-10.